GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3182
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2007
MORTALITY RATE
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Infant Mortality Rate(IMR) and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) in the country are much higher in comparison to other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for high mortality rate during the last five years, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the same and to ensure better healthcare to them?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) According to latest available information from Sample Registration System Bulletin 2006 the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) for India is 58 per 1000 live births. Based on the official estimates of Registrar General of India (RGI), the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) for India is 301 per 100,000 live births. A comparative statement each for showing Infant Mortality Rate and Maternal Mortality Rate of India with other selected countries released by the State of World Population 2006 and by World Health Organization respectively are placed at Annexure-I and Annexure-II respectively. Reasons of Infant Mortality are measles, diarrhea, sepsis and neonatal reasons; while the causes of Maternal Mortality are hemorrhage, sepsis, abortion, obstructed labor, hypertensive disorders and others. The state-wise detail of infant mortality rate during the last five years is at Annexure-III.

(c) The Govt. of India with a view to increase access to quality health care including services to safe motherhood, has launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) with special emphasis on improving the health status of rural population throughout the country. The Mission will operate over a period of seven years (2005-12). The Mission also aims at achieving effective integration of health concerns with determinants of health like sanitation and hygiene, nutrition and safe drinking water through decentralized plans.

The Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme, which focuses on reduction of infant and maternal mortality rates, is being implemented as a component of the NRHM. The interventions for reducing child and infant mortality include immunization against six vaccine preventable diseases, control of deaths due to diarrhea diseases and due to acute respiratory infections, eradication of polio, prophylaxis against blindness due to Vitamin A deficiency and essential new born care. As part of the second phase of RCH Programme, the Integrated Management of Newborn and Childhood Illnesses is being implemented in the districts in a phased manner.

The interventions for improving maternal health are essential obstetric care, skilled attendance at delivery, promotion of institutional and safe delivery, emergency obstetric care, provision of referral services to pregnant women with complications of pregnancy and provision of assistance to Below Poverty Line families for institutional deliveries through the Janani Suraksha Yojana.